(iii) To make up shortfall in the intakt of SC/ST candidttes, in posts filled by promotion in grades having direct recruitment quota, due to non-availability of suitable SC/ST candidates, vacancies are temporarily diverted to the direct recruitment quota for SC/ST till such time suitable SC|ST candidates from the feeder cadre are available.

(iv) Various concessions and facilities like relaxation in upper tge limit, exemption from payment of examination/application fee, more number of chances for appearing at an examination, relaxing tne standard of suitapility etc. have been provided to improve the intake of SC/ST candidates.

Illegal Appointment of Chief Secretary of SIKKIM

4814. SHRI MD. SALIM:
PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2214 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th December, 1991 and state:

(a) whetner the issue of corruption charges against ; Chief Secretary, Sikkim has since been examined;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of this review and what action has been initiated thereupon;

(c) whether Government have varified tnat the Chief Secretary, Sikkim was advanced a sum of Rs. 1 lakh by the Government of Sikkim in the context of the case of his compulsory retirement in Courts of Law;

(d) whether this constitutes an impropriety on the part of the State Government; and

(e) if so, what action Government purpose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Action in accordance with the observations of the Central Administrative Tribunal Calcutta Bench has already been initiated and is in progress.

(c) As present there is no such information.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Family Pension to the Children of Deceased Employees

4815. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAI PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER pe pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spouses/Children of tne deceased employees are paid family pension and salary when they are employed in deceased employees quota; and

(b) if so, whether there is an proposal to stop the pension when they are employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The spouses of the deceased empplye when employed. are paid family pension, in addition to the salary of the post in which they are employed. However during employment, deamess relief is not paid on the family pension. In the case of children family pension ceases to be paid if they start earning their livelihood.

There is no proposal to stop payment of family pension to spouses during employment.

Long pending demands of Conteen Employees of Madras Atomic Power Station Department Canteen

4816. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation|letters

from MPs regarding the long pending demand of canteen employees of Madras Atomic Power Station Departmental Canteen for their treatment on par with regular employees in accordance with Supreme Court's Judgement;

(b) if so, whether steps have been taken to declare such canteen employees as departmental employees;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that contract labourers are being engaged in the Departmental Canteen of MAPS when employees are available to perfrom the work;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether steps are being taken to stop engagement of contract labourers in MAPS canteen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Representations have been received regarding treating employees working in the canteen at the Madras Atomic Power Station as Government servants in the light of a judgement of Supreme Court of January 1992 which refers to canteens attached to Central Government Offices. The canteen at the Madras Atopublic sector enterprise namely, the public sector enterprise namely the Nuclear Power Corporation which was formed in September, 1987 i.e. prior to the judgement of Supreme Court of January, 1992. The terms of employment of the canteen workers at the Madras Atomic Power Station are regulated by the Nuclear Power Corporation.

(d) and (e) No contract workers are being engaged normally in the canteen at the Madras Atomic Power Station. In case of need due to absence of some of the employees, work is done through persons engaged on daily wages.

(f) Does not arise, in view of (d) & (e) above.

Arsenic Poisioning in West Bengal

@4817. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "500,000 affected by arsenic poisioning in West Bengal" as reported in the Economic Times dated 4th June, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to provide special assistance to the State Government to face the situation;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what other steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presence of arsenic in ground water was first noticed by the State Govrenment in 1978. Some studies on arsenic pollution were conducted by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health and School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. A working Group was also consituted by the Government of West Bengal in 1983 to study various aspects of arsenic pollution. A Steering Committee was constituted by the State Government with experts from different streams for an investigative study. The report of this Committee was

@Previously unstared question 2913, transferred from 5th August 1992.